

Insights

Duke Memorial United Methodist Church

504 West Chapel Hill Street

Durham, NC 27701

Mark W. Wethington

(919) 683-3467

ISSUE 36

Clinton W. Spence

COMPOST PILES, COVENANT DISCIPLESHIP AND CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

As 54 persons stepped out in faith this past Sunday morning to respond to the challenge and invitation to join Covenant Discipleship groups, I could not stop my tears of joy. What a powerful moment in our congregation's life together was this commitment of 16% of those present to "watch over one another in love" as our church attempts to keep Christ at the center of the ministry and mission of Duke Memorial United Methodist Church.

At our DMYF meeting last Sunday evening, 16 youth also signed sample covenants to join Branch groups, which are the youth adaptation of Covenant Discipleship. Apparently the witness of 54 persons at the chancel rail on Sunday morning had demonstrated the importance of the day in the life of our congregation to our young people. At least 2 adults from among our Covenant Discipleship pilot groups now have an opportunity to lead our youth in Christian formation through mutual support and accountability.

In his book, Forming Christian Disciples: The Role of Covenant Discipleship and Class Leaders in the Congregation, David Lowes Watson has summed up my understanding of evangelism.

There are few persons whose initial encounter with this Christ is dramatic -- whose repentance and conversion are radical and sudden. For the great majority of us, whether or not we have had a Christian background or upbringing, our involvement with Jesus grows over a period of time. There are critical points in this process, most especially when we first accept for ourselves the identity of Christian But over the years, our relationship with Christ is one that grows and develops, just as it did for the first disciple.

When congregations are Christ-centered, this growth takes place by the grace of the Holy Spirit rather than by human design or intent. People are drawn to Christ according to God's purpose, not ours (1991, p.53).

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1993

Christ the King Sunday

8:30 - 9:30 a.m.	Men's Coffee - Parlor
8:30 a.m.	Confirmation Class - Whitford Hall
9:15 a.m.	Wesley Singers - Sanctuary
9:45 - 10:45 a.m.	Methodism Class - Whitford Hall
9:45 - 10:45 a.m.	Sunday School for all ages
10:15 a.m.	Sanctuary Choir - Sanctuary
10:30 a.m.	Ringling of the Tower Bells
10:55 a.m.	Worship Service
12:15 p.m.	NO "INSIGHTS" information due
5:00 - 6:00 p.m.	Ring For Joy - Choir Room
5:00 - 6:00 p.m.	JOYBells - Handbell Room
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.	DMYF - Youth Lounge
7:30 p.m.	Thanksgiving Service - Sanctuary
8:00 p.m.	12 Step Al-Anon and A.A.
8:30 p.m.	Thanksgiving Service Reception - Whitford Hall

SERMON:

Clinton W. Spence

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 100

Matthew 25: 31-46

Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24

Ephesians 1: 15-23

ANTHEM:

Wesley Singer:

"I Will Give Thanks"

Michael Jothan

Sanctuary Choir:

"My Eternal King"

Jane Marshall

USHERS: Tim Langford (Captain), Clarence Bailey, Robin Langford, Arthur McDonald, Dick McFall, A.D. Turrentine

GREETERS:

Neal Grubbs

S.S. GREETERS:

Open Door

Susan Grubbs

ACOLYTES:

Jennifer Boring

CROSS:

Weston Drake

Daria Drake

ALTAR GUILD:

Gloria Johnson

MESSENGERS:

Kevin Baker

Ann Marie Langford

Denise Baker

NURSEY:

Amy Sears

JR. CHURCH:

TBA

Louise Rollins

Faye Fisher

Ann Stallings

(Continued on back page)

**CHURCH CALENDAR
NOVEMBER 22 - NOVEMBER 27**

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22

9:15 - 1:00 p.m. Parents' Morning Out - Nurseries
10:00 - 11:30 a.m. Staff Meeting - JOY Class
12:30 - 3:00 p.m. DISCIPLE Bible Study - Bradshaw
8:00 p.m. Al-Anon, Ala-Preteen and A.A.
Community Life Center

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23

12:15 - 2:00 p.m. Tuesday Study Group - Jr. JOY
8:00 p.m. Central Al-Anon, Ala-Teen and A.A.
Community Life Center

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

9:15 - 1:00 p.m. Parents' Morning Out - Nurseries
10:00 - 1:00 p.m. Craft/Lunch Bunch - Whitford Hall
NO "Insights" to fold
NO Wednesday Meal
NO Bible Study Classes
NO Carol Choir
NO Wesley Singer
NO Bethany Bells

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Office Closed
2:00 p.m. Multi-cultural Thanksgiving Meal
Parlor and Whitford Hall
NO Sanctuary Choir

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Office Closed

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27

No scheduled activities.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

CHILDREN'S TEACHERS' MEETING

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21

9:15 A.M.

SECOND GRADE CLASSROOM

Doris Forman will be leading the Children's Teachers' meeting on Sunday, November 21, 9:15 a.m. to discuss Christmas plans, needs of teachers, etc.

**WHITE CHRISTMAS
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12**

3:30 P.M.

SANCTUARY

Parents and children, think about what you would like to give an underprivileged children for White Christmas on December 12 at 3:30 p.m. This will be the children's Christmas Program, choirs singing, etc., in the sanctuary, followed by a reception in Whitford Hall.

**CONGREGATIONAL
CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON
AND
CHRISTMAS CAROLING
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19
12:15 P.M.
WHITFORD HALL**

Mark December 19th on your calendars to bring a covered dish and go Christmas caroling to shut-ins afterwards. We need a lot of children and their parents to go caroling -- older people light up when they see children.

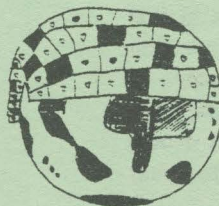


A great big thank you to Cathy Shepherd for donating linens to the church nursery. Thanks also to the Sew-Vols - Eugenia Dixon, Hilda Coble, Alice Walker, and others - for making the beautiful baby quilts for the nursery. Doris Forman has been hard at work making over the nursery curtains into beautiful balloon valances. Thanks for Louis Robinson's dedication in helping us get them hung.

**DMYF SHOWERS GREENWAYS
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21**

This Sunday, November 21, DMYF will shower baby Maggie and her Greenway family (Mary, Rich, and Christopher) with gifts of love. We are grateful for the ministry Rich and Mary share with us, and we want to help supply Maggie's wardrobe and Chris' toy box.

Besides the delight of gift giving, we will also enjoy pizza, games, and devotions before attending the Thanksgiving Service at 7:30 p.m. (Note: There will be no DMYF nor Bells rehearsals on November 28.)



**BLANKET SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 21**

LET'S HELP UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) "blanket the world with love!" For just \$5, you can provide a warm blanket to someone in need. The blanket may serve as a makeshift tent during a disaster, a knapsack for fleeing a war-zone with a few belongings, or just a much-needed warm snugly in a strange shelter. Bless the world with your \$5 gifts of warmth.

First Sunday of Advent

8:30 - 9:30 a.m. Men's Coffee - Parlor
 9:15 a.m. Carol Choir - Sanctuary
 9:45 - 10:45 a.m. Methodism Class - Whitford Hall
 9:45 - 10:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
 10:15 a.m. Sanctuary Choir - Sanctuary
 10:30 a.m. Ringing of the Tower Bells
 10:55 a.m. Worship Service - Sanctuary
 12:15 p.m. "INSIGHTS" information due (Dec. 5 - Dec. 11)
 NO Ring For Joy
 NO JOYBells
 NO DMYF - Youth Lounge
 8:00 p.m. 12 Step Al-Anon and A.A. Community Life Center

SERMON: Mark W. Wethington
SCRIPTURE:
 Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19 Mark 13: 24-37
 Isaiah 64: 1-9 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9
ANTHEM:
 Carol Choir:
 "Each Morning When I Wake Up" Knowles
 "Waiting, Waiting" Ritchie
 Sanctuary Choir:
 "Advent Carol" Wood
 "People, Look East" Dietrich
USHERS: Tim Langford (Captain), Clarence Bailey, Robin Langford, Arthur McDonald, Dick McFall, A.D. Turrentine
GREETERS: S.S. GREETERS:
 Youth Wesley Class
ACOLYTES: CROSS:
 Melissa Knight Kevin Gray
 Sherry Knight
ALTAR GUILD: MESSENGERS:
 Gloria Johnson Kevin Baker
 Ann Marie Langford Denise Baker
NURSERY: JR. CHURCH:
 Marlene Allen TBA
 Sue Clifton
 Angie Hutto
 Donna Fleming

FIRST WEDNESDAY FORUM
DECEMBER 1, 1993
WHITFORD HALL
6:15 - 7:30 P.M.

Redistricting Durham Public Schools

Dr. Doug Pearson from the central office will address the issues surrounding re-assignment of students. Youth and adults interested in how this will impact you and our community, please come!

NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 4

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29

9:15 - 1:00 p.m. Parents' Morning Out - Nurseries
 10:00 - 11:15 a.m. Staff Meeting - JOY Class
 11:15 - 12:30 p.m. Staff Luncheon
 12:30 - 3:00 p.m. DISCIPLE Bible Study - Bradshaw
 8:00 p.m. Al-Anon, Ala-Preteen and A.A. Community Life Center

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

12:15 - 2:00 p.m. Tuesday Study Group - Jr. JOY
 8:00 p.m. Central Al-Anon, Ala-Teen and A.A. Community Life Center

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1

9:15 - 1:00 p.m. Parents' Morning Out - Nurseries
 10:00 - 1:00 p.m. Craft/Lunch Bunch - Whitford Hall
 12:15 p.m. Advent Devotions - Bradshaw Room
 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Fold "Insights" - Whitford
 5:30 - 6:10 p.m. Wednesday Meal - Whitford Hall
 6:00 - 6:10 p.m. Sing and Share - Whitford
 6:15 - 7:30 p.m. First Wednesday Forum - on Redistricting
 6:15 - 7:00 p.m. Carol Choir - Aldersgate
 6:15 - 7:15 p.m. Wesley Singers Handbell Room
 6:15 - 7:15 p.m. Girl's Youth Share - JOY
 6:15 - 7:15 p.m. Covenant Discipleship - Mid. JOY
 6:15 - 7:15 p.m. Covenant Discipleship - Open Door
 6:15 - 8:30 p.m. DISCIPLE Bible Study - Bradshaw
 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Bethany Bells - Handbell Room

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2

7:15 - 8:15 p.m. Men's Coffee, Biscuits, OJ - Parlor
 9:45 a.m. Visitation
 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. Thursday Study Group Prayer Room
 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir - Choir Room

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3

8:00 p.m. Al-Anon and A.A. Community Life Center

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4

Gleaning Soc. of St. Andrew (683-3011)
 2:00 - 10:00 p.m. Witness For Peace Annual Guatemalan Festival - Whitford Hall/Kitchen

Duke Memorial United Methodist Church
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In other words, just as the rubbish on my compost pile turns slowly and almost unperceptively into the riches of humus, so also does our church -- and individuals who are drawn into its life -- slowly grow more Christlike as our congregation attempts "to witness to Jesus Christ in the world, and to follow his teachings through acts of compassion, justice, worship, and devotion" -- the General Rule of Discipleship. The mysterious heat that converts rubbish to riches in a compost pile can occasionally produce spontaneous combustion, and so too can the Holy Spirit burst into flames of fire in our midst.

This Sunday is Christ the King Sunday. It is both the Last Sunday After Pentecost and the last Sunday of the Christian year.

It is not so much a climax in itself, however, as it is a transition Sunday leading directly to Advent, the Christmas cycle, and the new Christian Year. People are already thinking about Christmas, and the observance of Christ the King can help them prepare by stressing the continuity between the celebration of the kingship, or sovereignty, of Christ and the expectation of Christ's coming again in sovereign glory which opens the Advent Season. We have more than a baby Jesus at Christmas; we have a sovereign Christ. "Joy to the world! The Lord is come: Let earth receive her King."

(The Handbook of Christian Worship,
p. 252).

Our Covenant Disciple Weekend is a crucial transition point in our church's ministry and mission as Christ the King Sunday is a transition Sunday in the Christian year. If Christ is indeed King, then our task as disciples of Jesus Christ centers on helping the people of the world to know what God has done and is doing to redeem their planet. We are witnesses to the Coming Reign of God!

If you were absent last Sunday, or quite ready to commit to join a Covenant Discipleship group, that was fine. If, however, you do want to join a Covenant Discipleship group and didn't sign a sample covenant last Sunday, there could be no better day to commit than Christ the King.

Make it your New Year's Resolution, i.e., the new Christian Year which begins November 28, the first Sunday of Advent!

Clint

**THANKSGIVING SERVICE
NOVEMBER 21
7:30 P.M.
DUKE MEMORIAL U.M.C.**

Mark your calendars now for the 12th Annual Service of Thanksgiving which will be held with our neighbor churches, Temple Baptist and Immaculate Conception Catholic Church on Sunday, November 21, at 7:30 p.m. in Duke Memorial's Sanctuary. This year we have invited our sister church, St. Mark AME Zion, to join with us in this service of celebration. The Rev. Donald Staib, priest at Immaculate Conception, will bring the message. The Revs. Crate Jones, William Loyd Burton, and Mark W. Wethington will serve as liturgists. Music will be offered by the combined choirs of all four churches. A reception will be held in Whitford Hall immediately following the service. Bring all your family and friends.

**MULTI-CULTURAL
THANKSGIVING DAY BANQUET
2:00 P.M., NOVEMBER 25
(Transportation Available)**

Families, singles, senior, and students come to a Thanksgiving fellowship dinner with our friends from St. Mark AME Zion. We'll gather at 2 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day in Duke Memorial's parlor for singing, visiting, and a prayer. Then, we'll move to Whitford Hall for our Thanksgiving banquet. Afterwards children may go play games, football fans can catch the action on a big-screen TV and everyone else can kick back, listen to music and chat with friends, both new and old.

Bring one covered dish (bread, vegetable, stuffing, potato, salad, or dessert) with enough for your family plus two. Turkey, tea, coffee, and table service will be provided. We will pass a basket to cover the cost of the turkeys. Any food remaining will be delivered to the local Community Shelter for H.O.P.E. This is also a good time to bring canned foods to help fill the food pantry.

Transportation is AVAILABLE, call JoLee Fishback at 419-1319, today to reserve your place at the banquet!